



What's Bloomin'



The following plants are those likely to be in flower at this time. The information given is intended to answer the questions: “Will this plant thrive in my garden? Do I have the best site and soil conditions for it? How long will it bloom?” For more information on the history of the gardens, ask inside the visitor center for The Gardens Site Bulletin.

Salvia *Salvia officinalis* 'Purple'

Salvias thrive in average to rich soil in shade or full sun with protection from summer afternoon heat. The soil should be kept evenly moist and have good drainage. Once established, Salvias tend to be drought tolerant. Plants bloom from early to late midsummer. A site against a wall or fence is ideal.



Rosebay Rhododendron *R. maximum*



Like all Rhododendrons, the late-flowering Rosebay needs acidic, well-drained soil rich in organic matter. It grows best in partial shade, although it will tolerate some sun if the soil is kept moist. Rosebay needs lots of room – it will grow up to 30 feet in the wild, but usually half that in the home landscape. It extends the blooming season for the species into early summer.

Foxglove *Digitalis sp.*

Foxgloves need rich, evenly moist, well-drained soil. They do not tolerate drought. The plants do best in partial shade with morning, not afternoon sun. Some rebloom may follow the June to July flowering if the plants are dead-headed.



Nepeta *Nepeta x faassenii*



Nepeta grows well in full sun or light shade but a dry site is a necessity; damp soil can be fatal. The plants spread as wide as they are tall. If sheared back hard after the first bloom in early summer, they will respond with new foliage and bloom. The common name for Nepeta is catnip, but only one species, *Nepeta cataria*, is intoxicating to cats. All Nepetas have a pungent aroma, pleasant for everyone except deer, which avoid the plant.

Kenilworth Ivy *Cymbalaria muralis*

The ivy with the tiny flowers trails over walls (muralis means “growing on walls”) and settles in stone crevices and on terraces. The plant grows – sometimes profusely – in sun or shade and, although it is an annual, will likely return the following spring.



Tall Meadow Rue
Thalictrum rochebruneanum



A shady site, especially during the hottest part of the day, with rich, moist soil, is ideal for Tall Meadow Rue. It will tolerate full sun if the soil remains constantly moist. The plants grow from clumps, emerge late in the spring and bloom for several weeks. Tall Meadow Rue also looks great planted in masses along a fence or stone wall.

Snakeroot
Cimicifuga racemosa var. cordiflora

Snakeroot grows naturally in the moist, dappled shade of woodlands. It spreads generously when given the site it prefers. Snakeroot will grow in the sun if the soil is kept consistently moist and the plant is shaded in the afternoon. The flowers bloom from early to midsummer.



Trumpet Vine
Campsis radicans



A native plant, Trumpet Vine is drought tolerant, adaptable to heat and cold and easy to grow in any soil. Flowering is greatest in full sun. The plants become woody and heavy, so they need a strong support and pruning to control growth (take care that the flower buds located at the end of the stem or branch are not cut off). Hummingbirds and butterflies love the flowers.

Cranesbill
Geranium sanguineum

This Geranium thrives in full sun or partial shade and tolerates some drought. The plant forms wide mounds and blooms from spring into summer. After the flowers fade, the plants can be sheared to within an inch or two of the ground for rebloom.



Veronica
Veronica spicata



Veronica blooms from early to late summer, in average to rich soil, in full sun or partial shade. It can reach 3 feet and spread as wide. The plant is a little fussy about moisture; it has shallow roots and needs well-drained conditions, neither too wet nor too dry. Aside from that, it's an easy plant to grow.

Lavender
Lavandula angustifolia

Lavender likes full sun, although it will tolerate some shade. The soil can be poor-to-rich but it must be well-drained and dry; it will not grow in wet conditions. The summer-blooming Lavender is actually a small evergreen shrub. It's a little tender in Zones 5 and 6 – western Connecticut – and needs a protected site.



Astilbe
Astilbe 'Bridal Veil'



Astilbes are a vigorous, long-lived perennial – provided they have constantly moist, well-drained soil. They like partial shade with morning sun. Astilbes flower in late spring for two or three weeks. The faded blooms remain attractive much longer.